THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ocean Thermal Energy Projects

1448. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken up any research project to tap Ocean thermal enery;

(b) if so, what are the deatils, thereof;

(c) whether Government have also taken up any ocean thermal energy conversion project; and

(d) if so, what are the details of progress made in this regard till date ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a to (d) A techno-economic feasibility for setting up a 1 MWe Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant (OTEC) was carired out by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources at Kavaratti in Lakshadweep Islands. This study revealed two major constraints *viz.* high capital cost for small sized OTEC Plant and inadequate availability of land. In view of severe financial constraints, it is not possible to undertake this experimenal project.

To improve upon the economics of OTEC to acceptable limits, a techno-economic feasibility for a 5 to 8 MWC OTEC Plant in Andaman Island is now being undertaken.

Revision of MRTP and FERA provisions

1449. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged Government for a drastic revision in the MRTP and FERA provisions;

(b) whether Government have examined the suggestion of the ASSOCHAM in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Government have come across a news-item under the caption "ASSOCHAM FOR REVIEW OF FERA, MRTP ACT" appearing in the "*Economic Times*" dated 2-7-1989.

(b) and (c) In so far as Ministry of Industry is concerned, a final decision on the proposals for further amendment to the MRTP Act, 1969 will be taken only after the strategy for industrial development for the 8th Plan has been formulated.

Price control on Timolol

1450. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1595 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Timolol has been excluded from price control on the ground that its demand is very small;

(b) whether his Ministry checked up the CIF value of imports of this drug;

(c) if so, what was the quantity and CIF value of imports of this drug during the last three years year-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that there are number of drugs which have much less demand than this drug and are covered under price control; and

(e) what are the names of those drugs and what is the justification in retaining those drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN